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Missouri Department of Transportation

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Public Comments Favor Partial Replacement of the Missouri River Bridge at Miami

MACON - The Missouri Department of Transportation held public meetings at Miami and Brunswick in January to provide information and answer questions regarding a proposed project to improve the Historic Missouri River Bridge at Miami. MoDOT is looking at two alternatives that would upgrade the bridge, and asked participants to offer comments on the proposals. Approximately 75 people attended the meetings, many offering comments.

The alternatives were:

- A. Rehabilitation of Existing Bridge (\$12-14 million)
- B. Partial Replacement (\$14-16 million)

Information presented during the meetings showed the bridge was built in 1939 and last rehabilitated in 1983. It has a narrow roadway of 23 feet, and needs continual maintenance just to keep the bridge open to traffic.

Rehabilitating the existing bridge, although the cheaper option; would still not eliminate the regular maintenance closings and would not add width to the narrow deck. Rehabilitation would require the bridge be closed to traffic for a minimum of three months.

Partial replacement would remove the existing deck and steelwork from the supporting piers, provide new steel and roadway on top for a new 26 foot driving surface, and would extend the life of the bridge 50-plus years. The partial rehabilitation is an innovative solution that gives the community and Missouri taxpayers so much more with only minimal additional cost than a traditional rehabilitation. Partial rehabilitation would require the bridge be closed to traffic for up to 12 months.

Of the comments received, 94% supported the partial rehabilitation. “The comments reflect the public’s understanding that the partial replacement is the best option,” said Project Manager Preston Kramer. “They also acknowledged the hardship they will experience from the closure, as 35% of the comments included requests for alternate transportation.”

Currently MoDOT is working with property owners and utility companies, and is looking into possible alternate transportation solutions during the closure. A public hearing will be scheduled in mid-April, and the proposed project award date is Mid-March 2009.

For more information, contact the MoDOT District 2 Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888-ASK MoDOT (275-6636). The center is open Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or visit our website at <http://www.modot.org/northcentral>.

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